

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# *Capillipedium parviflorum* and *Hemisorghum venustum* (Andropogoneae: Poaceae): Occurrence in India, notes on identity and typification

Tarbej J. Shaikh<sup>1,2</sup>  | Raghunath L. Ghalme<sup>2</sup>  | Uday L. Chougule<sup>1</sup>  | Girish G. Potdar<sup>1</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Department of Botany, Yashwantrao Chavan College of Science, Karad, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Botany, Dapoli Urban Bank Senior Science College, Dapoli, India

**Correspondence**

Girish G. Potdar, Yashwantrao Chavan College of Science, Vidyanagar, Karad, MS 415124, India.  
Email: [girishpotdar@gmail.com](mailto:girishpotdar@gmail.com)

**Funding information**

Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of Department of Science and Technology (DST) - Government of India, under Extra Mural Research Scheme, Grant/Award Number: EMR/2016/003839

**Abstract**

The taxonomic identity and typification of *Hemisorghum venustum* (Thwaites) Clayton and *Capillipedium parviflorum* (R.Br.) Stapf. is discussed along with detailed descriptions, photographs, and notes. Morphological differences are presented for easy identification of both the species.

**KEYWORDS**

*Capillipedium parviflorum*, *Hemisorghum venustum*, India, lectotype, poaceae, taxonomy

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

The genera *Capillipedium* Stapf and *Hemisorghum* C.E.Hubb. belongs to tribe Andropogoneae subtribe Andropogoninae of family Poaceae (Mabberley, 2017; Soreng et al., 2017). The genus *Capillipedium* is represented by 20 species distributed in East Africa, tropical Asia to Australia and New Caledonia (Shaikh & Potdar, 2021), whereas *Hemisorghum* is represented by two species distributed in Southeast Asia (Bor, 1960). In India, these two genera *Capillipedium* and *Hemisorghum* are represented by ten and one species, respectively (Bor, 1960; Deshpande, 1984; Shaikh & Potdar, 2021). *Capillipedium parviflorum* (R.Br.) Stapf was described from Australia by Robert (1810). Later in India the species was reported from north India (Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, etc.) and south India (Tamil Nadu).

Salunkhe (1995) and Potdar et al. (2012) reported *Capillipedium parviflorum* from Maharashtra and Abhijit and Krishnamurthy (2019) reported *C. parviflorum* from Karnataka. A critical examination of these three records

revealed that the specimens, description, illustration, and images of *C. parviflorum* did not match with the original description in the protolog and live specimens collected by us from reported locality. Furthermore, Kabeer and Nair (2009) reported *C. parviflorum* from Tamil Nadu, which is well matched with the protolog.

During field investigations in different parts of India, we collected *Capillipedium parviflorum* from high altitude ranges of Cherrapunji-Meghalaya in October 2018, and then in November 2020 from high altitude ranges in western ghats of Maharashtra (eastern hills near Panchgani). After critical investigation, scrutiny of relevant literature (Bhat, 2014; Clayton, 1972; Deshpande, 1984; Potdar et al., 2012; Robert, 1810; Stapf, 1917; Thwaites, 1864), comparison with the type material and consultation of various herbaria (ASSAM, BM, BSI, BSA, E, FR, HT, JSTOR, K, MO, PDA, W) we conclude that the above mentioned reports by Salunkhe (1995), Potdar et al. (2012) and Abhijit and Krishnamurthy (2019) are misidentifications of *Hemisorghum venustum* as *Capillipedium parviflorum*. Scrutiny of the above records reveal that the specimen belongs to *H. venustum*, which is already reported from Karnataka by Bhat (2014) and from Maharashtra by